

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel reforming apparatus comprising:

a reforming catalyst that reforms raw gas including hydrocarbonic fuel into reformed gas including hydrogen; and

a honeycomb filter comprising a plurality of partitions that are made of a first material and that are structured to form:

a raw material supply flow passage that causes the raw gas to flow along a first face of the plurality of partitions and that supplies the raw gas to the filter; and

a processed gas flow passage that causes reformed and filtered gas to flow along a second face of the plurality of partitions, wherein:

the plurality of partitions are comprised of an interstitial material including a plurality of gaps having an effective diameter from 10 to 100 μm for trapping soot that is generated in the raw gas due to the hydrocarbonic fuel,

the reforming catalyst is carried by the plurality of partitions on the second face on the side of the processed gas flow passage, and

the first face of the plurality of partitions on the side of the raw material supply flow passage is only coated by an inactive second material.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the raw material supply flow passage causes the raw gas to flow along the first face and substantially parallel thereto, and

the processed gas flow passage causes the reformed and filtered gas to flow along the second face and substantially parallel thereto.

4. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of partitions are constructed using a monolithic carrier made from the interstitial material.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the interstitial material forming the plurality of partitions is formed from one of a porous material, a mesh material, a foamed material, non-woven fabric, and a sintered material.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inactive material is alumina.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reforming catalyst is additionally carried by the plurality of partitions also on an entire surface of the gaps.

14-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a raw material preparing portion that gasifies hydrocarbonic fuel and that mixes air with water vapors to prepare raw gas,

wherein the raw material preparing portion can increase an amount of air by a predetermined amount with respect to raw gas.

20. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the porous material forming the plurality of partitions is formed from one of a porous material, a mesh material, a foamed material, non-woven fabric, and a sintered material.

21. (Currently Amended) A fuel reforming apparatus comprising:

reforming means for reforming raw gas including hydrocarbonic fuel into reformed gas including hydrogen using a reforming catalyst; and
soot trapping means that are made of a first material for trapping soot generated in the raw gas, wherein:

the soot trapping means includes a plurality of gaps having an effective diameter from 10 to 100 μm for trapping soot that is generated in the raw gas due to the hydrocarbonic fuel,

a first face of the soot trapping means is only coated by an inactive second material,

the reforming means is carried by the soot trapping means on a second face of the soot trapping means, and

the soot trapping means comprises a honeycomb filter.

22. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the honeycomb filter comprises interstitial material that includes the plurality of gaps.

23-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising soot removing means for removing soot that has been trapped by the soot trapping means.

26. (Previously Presented) The fuel reforming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the soot removing means contacts soot that has been trapped by the soot trapping means with oxygen-containing gas.

27-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A fuel reforming apparatus comprising:

a reforming catalyst that reforms raw gas including hydrocarbonic fuel into reformed gas including hydrogen;

a filter comprising a plurality of partitions that are made of a first material and
that are structured to form:

a raw material supply flow passage that causes the raw gas to flow along a first face of the plurality of partitions and that supplies the raw gas to the filter; and

a processed gas flow passage that causes reformed and filtered gas to flow along a second face of the plurality of partitions, wherein:

the reforming catalyst is carried by the plurality of partitions on the second face on the side of the processed gas flow passage,

the plurality of partitions are comprised of an interstitial material including a plurality of gaps for trapping soot that is generated in the raw gas due to the hydrocarbonic fuel, and

the first face of the plurality of partitions on the side of the raw material supply flow passage is only coated by an inactive second material.